

CLAIMS

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Claim 1. (Previously amended) A modular rack-mounting system comprising:

- a frame forming a central compartment;
- a sleeve within which an instrument may be mounted, the sleeve being configured to fit within the central compartment; and
- means for detachably securing the sleeve within the frame.

Claim 2. (Previously amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 1 wherein the securing means comprises:

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- a spring mounted on the frame;
  - a button mounted on the spring and extending through a hole in the frame to engage a corresponding hole in the sleeve when the sleeve is inserted within the central compartment.

Claim 3. (Previously amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 1 wherein the frame comprises:

- a left portion having fingers; and
- a right portion having fingers, the fingers of the left and right portions interlocking with each other to assure rigidity of the frame.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 1 ~~wherein the frame further comprises~~ comprising a central rib mounted within the frame to divide the central compartment into two compartments, the sleeve being configured to fit within either compartment.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 4 wherein the securing means comprises:

- a spring mounted on the central rib;
- a button mounted on the spring ~~and extending through a hole in the central rib into the compartment~~ to engage a corresponding hole in the sleeve when the sleeve is inserted into the compartment.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claims 4, 5 or 5 7 wherein the securing means comprises:

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- a spring mounted on the frame;
  - a button mounted on the spring and extending through a hole in the frame to engage a corresponding hole in the sleeve when the sleeve is inserted within the compartment.

Claim 7. (New) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 4 wherein the securing means comprises:

- a first spring mounted on a first side of the central rib having a first button mounted on one end; and
  - a second spring mounted on a second side of the central rib in an opposing manner to the first spring and having a second button mounted on one end, the first and second buttons being mounted to engage corresponding holes in respective sleeves when the respective sleeves are inserted into the two compartments, the central rib having a hole between the button ends of the springs to allow the button ends to deform into the hole when the buttons are depressed.
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